

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 24 and 25 are pending. In the Office Action mailed on March 30, 2005, the Examiner: rejected claims 1-6 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 101; and rejected claims 1-6, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0054015 A1 to Boucousis ("Boucousis"). In this response, Applicants amend claims 1, 24 and 25. Further examination and review in view of the amendments and remarks below are respectfully requested.

Some or all of the pending claims are directed to presenting information on new items likely to be of interest to a user. Items, such as, by way of example, products, services, various kinds of content such as reviews, interviews, and announcements, and combinations thereof, are filtered by appropriate date ranges and by a user's computed or explicitly expressed interests. For example, in some cases, available items are first filtered based upon their effective date, thereby identifying the items that are new. These filtered items are then further filtered based upon the user's interests, and the resulting items are presented to the user.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 25 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants herein amend claims 1 and 25 to address the particular concerns raised by the Examiner. Claims 2-5 continue to depend from independent claim 1.

All of the claims stand rejected over Boucousis. Boucousis merely describes a method for allowing vendors to determine the identities of seekers who have been perusing the vendors' item listings. (see Abstract). According to Boucousis, a web site accesses an electronically searchable database that includes an item catalogue that holds entries for a catalogue of items that may be offered by the vendors, and a listing catalogue that lists items that are presently available from the vendors. (paragraph [0038]). In Boucousis, a vendor may submit only items that appear in the item catalogue for listing in the listing catalogue. (paragraph [0039]). A seeker of information then makes use of the

web site by connecting to the web site and submitting a search query for an item of interest to be searched for, where the item of interest must be an entry in the item catalogue. In response to the user submitting the search query, the web site initiates a search through the listing catalogue. (paragraphs [0042] and [0043]). Thus, according to Boucousis, the vendor submits items for inclusion in the listing catalogue, and the web site initiates a search of the listing catalogue (i.e., the vendor-submitted items) in response to a user query.

While Applicants regard claims 1-6, 24 and 25 to be patentable over Boucousis in their present form, Applicants herein: amend claim 1 to explicitly recite "automatically defining a range of dates within which the availability dates of new products fall," and "from among the subsetted inventory, automatically selecting products for display based upon predicted level of interest to the user;" amend claim 24 to explicitly recite "automatically defining a range of dates within which the availability dates of new products fall," and "from among the subsetted inventory, automatically selecting products for display based upon information relating to the user;" and amend claim 25 to explicitly recite "automatically defining a range of dates within which the availability dates of new instances of content fall," and "from among the subsetted inventory, automatically selecting instances of content for display based upon information relating to the user." Boucousis does not disclose, suggest or teach automatically defining a range of dates to subset and inventory, nor does it disclose suggest or teach automatically selecting products or instances of content from among the subsetted inventory. Applicants submit that claim 1, its dependent claims 2-6, and claims 24 and 25 are unarguably patentable over Boucousis.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6, 24 and 25 are allowable and ask that this application be passed to allowance. If the Examiner has

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any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8000.

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